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NEWS RELEASE

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Schools Opening Prompts Safety Alert

Next week signals the beginning of school for most students in the Beaverton area. It also serves as a reminder that whether you walk, drive or bike some habits you developed over the summer must change for the sake of safety.

The start of school means that bus traffic and foot traffic will increase in the neighborhoods and near schools. Everyone can reduce the chances of a dangerous encounter by practicing three things:

GIVE YOURSELF MORE TIME. With the increase in traffic of all sorts, it stands to reason that your morning and afternoon commute will be impacted. Giving yourself an extra 15-20 minutes will reduce your frustration level and lessen the chance that you may resort to more aggressive acts when trying to make up for lost time.

SLOW DOWN. You can see a lot more and react a lot faster when maintaining a prudent speed. Besides, with school zones being signed at 20 MPH in most places and a 25 MPH speed limit on residential streets being strictly enforced, you can't afford to go too fast.

DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED. That means no illegal cell phone use including texting. No application of make-up in the rearview mirror. No disruptive activity that takes your mind away from safe driving habits.

Parents should walk their younger children to school and encourage safe pedestrian habits and educate them on the proper way to navigate by bicycle if appropriate.

The first few days/weeks of school also mean Traffic Details will be very visible around schools.

For a comprehensive safety list from ODOT check out
www.oregon.gov/odot/ts/index.shtml

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